Neri Parenti

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Neri Parenti (born 26 April 1950, in Florence) is an Italian film director and writer. He is known for comedy films, including the series starring Paolo Villaggio playing the character Ugo Fantozzi, and a later series of *cinepanettoni* - zany comedy films scheduled for release during the Christmas period.

Neri Parenti	
Born	26 April 1950 (age 71) Florence, Italy
Occupation	film director
Years active	1979-present
Height	1.88 m (6 ft 2 in)

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Biography [edit source]

After graduating in political science, he dedicated his career to filmmaking. He became a pupil and assistant of Pasquale Festa Campanile from 1972 to 1979, and also worked for Salvatore Samperi, Steno and Giorgio Capitani. In 1979 he directed his first film, *The Face with Two Left Feet*, an ironic and comical parody of *Saturday Night Fever* with John Travolta, which had been a hit two years earlier.

A year later he met the film actor and director Paolo Villaggio, who was then filming *Fantozzi contro tutti*. Villaggio developed an esteem for Parenti and decided to leave the director's chair to join forces with him. The result was very positive and the pair made another six films with the Fantozzi character, from *Fantozzi subisce ancora* (1983) to *Fantozzi - Il ritorno* (1996).[1][2]

His films feature catastrophic and noisy gags, referring back to American silent film, combined with typical situations from Italian comedy (*commedia brillante*)[3] and with some authorial motifs, repeated in almost all his films, from the diptych *Scuola di ladri* (1986) and *Scuola di ladri - Parte seconda* (1987), to the famous trilogy *Le comiche* (1990), *Le comiche 2* (1992), and *Le nuove comiche* (1994).[4] His film *Le comiche* was the fourth-highest-grossing film in Italy in 1990.[5] Parenti claimed in 2012 that he had been excommunicated twice for sequences in *Le comiche* and *Le comiche 2* that he said had been considered outrageous by the Catholic Church.[6] The spokesman of the Holy See, Federico Lombardi, and Cardinal Velasio De Paolis, who from 2003 to 2008 was secretary of the Apostolic Signatura, both promptly denied the report, saying that the director was only joking.[7]

After the expiry of his contract with Villaggio in 1996, Parenti turned to directing Christmas movies, or *cinepanettoni*, starring Christian De Sica and Massimo Boldi.[8] Parenti had already experimented in this kind of movie when he was still working with Villaggio; the first such film he directed was *Vacanze di Natale '95* (1995). Further films he made set at Christmas time started with *Merry Christmas* (2001), and ended with *Vacanze di Natale a Cortina* (2011), which registered the third highest takings in Italy that year.[9]

In 2020, he directed comedy couple Christian De Sica and Massimo Boldi in *In vacanza su Marte*, after a 15-years hiatus.

He is one of the few Italian directors to have stayed within a single genre throughout his career.[10]

Filmography [edit source]

- *The Face with Two Left Feet* (1979)
- *Fantozzi contro tutti* (1980)
- *Fracchia la belva umana* (1981)
- *Sogni mostruosamente proibiti* (1982)
- *Pappa e ciccia* (1983)
- *Fantozzi subisce ancora* (1983)
- *I pompieri* (1985)
- *Fracchia contro Dracula* (1985)
- *Scuola di ladri* (1986)
- *Superfantozzi* (1986)
- *Scuola di ladri - Parte seconda* (1987)
- *Casa mia, casa mia...* (1988)
- *Fantozzi va in pensione* (1988)
- *Fratelli d'Italia* (1989)
- *I Won the New Year's Lottery* (1989)
- *Le comiche* (1990)
- *Fantozzi alla riscossa* (1990)
- *Le comiche 2* (1991)
- *Infelici e contenti* (1992)
- *Fantozzi in paradiso* (1993)
- *Le nuove comiche* (1994)
- *Vacanze di Natale '95* (1995)
- *Fantozzi – Il ritorno* (1996)
- *Cucciolo* (1998)
- *Paparazzi* (1998)
- *Tifosi* (1999)
- *Body Guards* (2000)
- *Merry Christmas* (2001)
- *Natale sul Nilo* (2002)
- *Natale in India* (2003)
- *Christmas in Love* (2004)
- *Natale a Miami* (2005)
- *Natale a New York* (2006)
- *Natale in crociera* (2007)
- *Natale a Rio* (2008)
- *Natale a Beverly Hills* (2009)
- *Natale in Sudafrica* (2010)
- *Amici miei – Come tutto ebbe inizio* (2011)
- *Vacanze di Natale a Cortina* (2011)
- *Colpi di fulmine* (2012)
- *Colpi di fortuna* (2013)
- *Ma tu di che segno sei?* (2014)
- *Vacanze ai Caraibi* (2015)
- *Natale da chef* (2017)
- *In vacanza su Marte* (2020)

References [edit source]

1. ^ Frini, pp. 9-28
2. ^ Damien Simonis, "Florence". Lonely Planet Guides, 2006. ISBN 9781740598095.
3. ^ Frini, p. 37
4. ^ Frini, p. 55
5. ^ "Italian film industry falls on hard times", New Straits Times, 15 January 1991
6. ^ *"Papa' cinepanettoni scomunicato due volte"*, ANSA.it, 12 December 2012
7. ^ *"Nessun fulmine vaticano sui cinepanettoni"* ("No Vatican rage on *cinepanettoni*"), Vatican Insider, La Stampa, 12 December 2012
8. ^ Christian Uva & Michele Picchi, *Destra e sinistra nel cinema italiano: film e immaginario politico dagli anni '60 al nuovo millennio* ("Left and right in Italian cinema"). p. 165. Edizioni Interculturali, 2006. ISBN 88-8837-566-X.
9. ^ "Italian Films 2012: The Awards vs The Box Office", "I Love Italian Movies", 3 December 2012
10. ^ Frini, p. 130

- Roberto Frini, "Neri Parenti". Gremese Editore, 2005. ISBN 88-8440-352-9.
- Gian Piero Brunetta, "The History of Italian Cinema: A Guide to Italian Film from Its Origins to the Twenty-first Century". Princeton University Press, 2009. ISBN 9780691119885.

External links [edit source]

- Neri Parenti at IMDb
- New York Times, filmography

v · t · e	**Films directed by Neri Parenti** [hide]
	The Face with Two Left Feet (1979) · *Fantozzi contro tutti* (1980) · *Fracchia la belva umana* (1981) · *Sogni mostruosamente proibiti* (1982) · *Pappa e ciccia* (1983) · *Fantozzi subisce ancora* (1983) · *I pompieri* (1985) · *Fracchia contro Dracula* (1985) · *Scuola di ladri* (1986) · *Superfantozzi* (1986) · *Scuola di ladri - Parte seconda* (1987) · *Casa mia, casa mia...* (1988) · *Fantozzi va in pensione* (1988) · *Fratelli d'Italia* (1989) · *I Won the New Year's Lottery* (1989) · *Le comiche* (1990) · *Fantozzi alla riscossa* (1990) · *Le comiche 2* (1991) · *Infelici e contenti* (1992) · *Fantozzi in paradiso* (1993) · *Le nuove comiche* (1994) · *Vacanze di Natale '95* (1995) · *Fantozzi – Il ritorno* (1996) · *Cucciolo* (1998) · *Paparazzi* (1998) · *Tifosi* (1999) · *Body Guards* (2000) · *Merry Christmas* (2001) · *Natale sul Nilo* (2002) · *Natale in India* (2003) · *Christmas in Love* (2004) · *Natale a Miami* (2005) · *Natale a New York* (2006) · *Natale in crociera* (2007) · *Natale a Rio* (2008) · *Natale a Beverly Hills* (2009) · *Natale in Sudafrica* (2010) · *Amici miei – Come tutto ebbe inizio* (2011) · *Vacanze di Natale a Cortina* (2011) · *Colpi di fulmine* (2012) · *Colpi di fortuna* (2013) · *Ma tu di che segno sei?* (2014) · *Vacanze ai Caraibi* (2015) · *Natale da chef* (2017) · *In vacanza su Marte* (2020)

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